

# AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH

## JERUSALEM AND BAGHDAD

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

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The time has come to write the last letter of the academic year at the School and to report on the last phases of our operations here. I find it a somewhat sad task for it is the last chance I shall have of communicating with you from the Director's office in the Jerusalem School. All of you who have had the opportunity of visiting or living in Jerusalem will understand my feelings as the time for departure draws closer. In the last two and a half years, Jerusalem has become a part of my life and the prospect of leaving this enchanted city and country fills me with sorrow. But I realize that all such marvellous experiences must sooner or later come to an end. I can only consider myself most fortunate in being allowed the privilege of being here so long and of being entrusted with the dignity and honour which goes with the office of Director of the American School. That it also entails hard work and concentration does not detract one whit from it, and the opportunities it provides for work and study on the "ground floor" of so many of the disciplines of our academic life -- archaeology, linguistics, topography, history, Bible study -- make these studies come alive and reveal an immediate importance and relevance with which book-work at home can never endow them. For the opportunities thus provided me and the confidence shown in me by the Board of Trustees of these Schools, for the help and encouragement proffered unstintingly by our President and by the Chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, and for the constant interest and inspiration provided by our large membership, I am most grateful.

The month of June passed very quickly. Most of the time was taken up with sorting and packing. We have accumulated great quantities of luggage, not to speak of the archaeological materials that must be transported home. The School's share of pottery from Jericho fills three large wooden crates. The materials from Dhiban take another five. My personal pottery collection fills four more. And then there are the personal belongings we have acquired -- the sort of thing everyone who comes to the east wants to take home -- rugs, handiwork, some furniture, copper-work, glass, pottery, pictures etc.etc. One does not realize until packing time comes just how much has accumulated. I am afraid that if we were to stay a day longer we could never afford to go home! Packing is proceeding quickly but there is not much time left. We sail on July 13th from Beirut and all the rest of our stuff must be trucked up there before then. I can only hope that we get to Beirut -- bag and baggage -- on time. I think we are all looking forward to three weeks on the Excelsior for a rest.

But our approaching departure also involves the handing over of the reins of administration to Dr. Frank Cross and Mrs. Cross. Dr. Cross has been appointed Annual Professor for 1953-54 and is Acting Director for the summer months until Professor Mullenburg arrives in September. The Crosses arrived with daughter Susan in Beirut on June 11th where they were met by the School car and Imran. For a few days after their arrival they busied themselves with settling into their apartment, reading up on School files and being gradually introduced to the paper work of the School. Frank even found time to begin his work on the manuscripts down at the Palestine Museum, and comes home each day now with new tales of discovery and identification. Unfortunately Père Barthélemy took sick just before Frank's arrival and has gone

home to France for a well-needed rest. But Père Milik is still hard at work, and of course Père de Vaux is busy on Qumran publications. But on July 1st, the Tushinghams formally handed over the Director's office, the keys and the files to the Crosses and since that time there has been a noticeable dropping off in the amount of time Frank has been able to work in the Museum. I hope for his sake that as he and Mrs. Cross get used to the School routine that he will be able to get back down to his own work. The Tushingams sail on the 13th so there is a good overlap of time in which any problems of School policy or administration can be ironed out--insha'allah.

To make the new Director's lot somewhat easier, we held a tea to which we invited all those people with whom Dr. Cross and Mrs. Cross would have contacts -- business and social -- during the summer months. We had a reception line in the Director's House while tea; sandwiches and cakes were served in the garden. I have a feeling that at the end, the Crosses were saturated with names which could not be matched with faces or vice versa, but the relationships will finally straighten themselves out.

The School building is undergoing something of a face-lifting at present. Painting and repair work is in progress inside and out. There has been little time for that up to now but with the School virtually empty and the painters free to do the job, the work can proceed steadily and quickly. The dining-room and downstairs sitting-room in the north wing are now in a light shade of blue with white ceilings. The cloister is being brightened up with a light maroon paint which matches the stonework and should provide a beautiful background for the white arches and the greenery of our garden. All the shutters from the front of the building have been taken down, repaired and scraped ready for new coats of green paint. Screen and window frames and iron work all come in for repair and painting. The kitchen and pantry must await the shipment of paint brought out by the Crosses and now waiting to be flown down from Beirut. I hope that before we leave we shall be able to get some colour pictures of the results which we can show at the meetings next Christmas.

Dhiban business has continued to take up a large part of our time during the month. All the registers had to be brought into shape and copies made for Mr. Harding. He came to the School for the official division of finds on June 11th and was most generous with us. He took a few small objects such as figurines, a Nabataean bowl and a Hellenistic bowl, the Greek inscription and the fragment of a Latin inscription, the black basalt arm which apparently belonged to a small Iron Age statue and some painted plaster. He also took the largest of the Moabite tomb groups and one of the Byzantine tomb groups, but left us all the rest. When he had finished, it was necessary to have all objects selected by him drawn, photographed and otherwise completely recorded so that they might be published in the Dhiban publication. The plans of the site are now finished and blue-prints have been made in order to leave a complete record here at the School. Most of the pottery has been drawn and all the stone objects and architectural pieces but much still remains to be done and will have to be finished up at home later.

We made one final trip down to Dhiban during the month. It was an opportunity to check a few measurements for the plans, make a couple of extra photographs, take a few more levels and in general round out the picture of our work for the year. It was also an opportunity to show Dr. Cross the site of the American School's efforts over the last few years. He was impressed with the place -- at least as a rock-pile! Certainly there is more stone at Dhiban than any other site I have seen out here with the exception of Ai. But Dhiban's stones are far larger and more unmanageable.

Our Jerusalem friends are giving us a good send-off with teas, cocktail parties, dinners etc., and it is rather difficult to squeeze them into the packing and baby-tending schedule. Jerusalem is much like a small town at home in many respects.

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One comes to know the international consular and U.N. group here very quickly. These, with the government and municipal officials, the teachers and clergy of St. George's School and Cathedral, the Dominicans and Franciscans, and the Museum people make up a rather small community. All are interested in archaeology -- naturally, for we live in the middle of one of the great open-air museums of the world. Everything is imbued with history. St. George's expands its playing fields and uncovers Byzantine tombs. The city builds a new road and finds ancient walls, cisterns and houses. School children pick up Roman and ancient Jewish coins in the streets or fields. With this common interest in the history of the country goes a very profound concern for the problems faced by this new nation, particularly in the areas of education, employment, refugees relief and countless other ways. We meet over and over again at functions of all kinds; we know all about who is going to have a baby, who is going on a holiday and where -- in short, as I said above, it resembles a small American town. This of course means that one feels at home very quickly and it is all the more difficult to tear one's self away. But the time for that has come and we must go. But we have many friends and many ties with this marvellous city and its courteous and intelligent citizens. These memories we will always treasure.

Again I convey to you all the best wishes of the School in Jerusalem, of the Tushinghams who are leaving, and the Crosses who are arriving. We wish them all luck and as happy and profitable a time as we have enjoyed. I know that they will have your support and confidence at all times, and in return will keep you informed of all that transpires out here which will be of interest to you.

A.D. Tushingham.